

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00

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RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 090622

R 261430Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5497

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0389

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EI

SUBJ: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL QUERY ABOUT CIVILIAN
PRISONERS IN VIETNAM

1. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR HANDLING LETTER SENT TO
PRESIDENT NIXON BY IRISH SECTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.
LETTER WAS DATED JAN 30, 1974, AND SIGNED BY T. C.
KINGSMILL MOORE, WHO IS FORMER IRISH SUPREME COURT JUDGE AND
VICE-CHAIRMAN OF AI. (EMBOFFS HAVE MET HIM AND CONSIDER HIM
FRIENDLY TO U.S.) LETTER WAS FORWARDED FROM WASHINGTON TO
EMBASSY FOR REPLY.

2. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS: "I AM WRITING AS THE VICE-CHAIRMAN
OF THE IRISH SECTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. MY SECTION IS
VERY MUCH DISTRESSED BY THE FAILURE OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
AND THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE NATIONAL
LIBERATION FRONT TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENTS OF JANUARY AND
JUNE, 1973, FOR THE LIBERATION AND EXCHANGE OF CIVILIAN PRISON-
ERS. I REALISE THAT YOU ARE ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE IN A POSITION
TO BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR TO SECURE THE FULFILMENT OF THESE
AGREEMENTS. AS YOU KNOW, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HAS NO POLITICS.
IT EXISTS TO WORK FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE IMPRISONED
SOLELY BECAUSE THEY HOLD VIEWS WHICH ARE UNPOPULAR WITH THOSE WHO
KEEP THEM IN PRISON. WE WORK TO SECURE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND
HUMANITY. MAY WE URGE YOU TO USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO HAVE ALL
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CIVILIAN PRISONERS ON EITHER SIDE, WHO ARE HELD CAPTIVE AS A RESULT

OF THE VIETNAM WAR, RESTORED AT ONCE TO THEIR HOMES AND FAMILIES."

3. PORTION OF ENCLOSED COPY OF LETTER TO PRESIDENT THIEU FOLLOWS:

"IT WAS AGREED IN THE PEACE AGREEMENT OF JANUARY, 1973, THAT ALL CIVILIAN PRISONERS HELD BY EITHER GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE RELEASED WITHIN 90 DAYS, AND A FURTHER AGREEMENT WAS MADE IN JUNE FOR A RELEASE WITHIN 45 DAYS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DIFFICULTIES AND DELAYS HAVE ARISEN IN CARRYING OUT THESE AGREEMENTS. MEANWHILE MANY THOUSANDS OF CIVILIANS ARE BEING KEPT IN PRISON, UNNECESSARILY AS WE SUGGEST. SURELY IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO RELIEVE THEMSELVES OF THE TASK OF GUARDING AND FEEDING SO MANY PERSONS; AND SURELY IT IS IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE AND THE INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS THAT THERE SHOULD BE A MASSIVE RELEASE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. AS WE HAVE POINTED OUT, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TAKES NO SIDES IN POLITICS. THIS LETTER IS ALSO BEING SENT TO THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT." SORENSON

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